

THE
S P E E C H

OF THE

R I G H T H O N O U R A B L E,

H E N R Y Earl of Warrington,

Upon his being S W O R N

MAYOR of Chester,

In N O V E N B E R 1691.

G E N T L E M E N,



A M much obliged to you, for the respect you have done me, by putting this trust into my hands; and your Kindness is the greater, because you did it without *any Sollicitation* on my part; for I did so little expect it, that I was extremely Surprized when I Read my Predecessors Letter, which gave me to understand, That your *Choice* of a Mayor for the Year ensuing was fallen upon me; it is a great Trust that you repose in me, and I hope I shall not Disappoint you in the Confidence you have of me.

It is with some Inconvenience to my *private Affairs*, That I have taken this Journey; yet had my particular occasions suffer'd more, I should have made no difficulty in postponing them, when an opportunity offers it self of doing *any Service* to the Publick, or to this *Corporation*; neither could I have been excusable, if I should have put so great a *slight* upon the respect and good will of my Friends, as to refuse to Serve then in this, or any other Capacity.

By the *Oath* I have now taken, I have obliged my self *before God and the World*, to that, to which my own inclinations did zealously dispose me; for it was with *extream Grief*, when in the late Reigns I beheld your Liberties and Franchises were Ravish'd from you: What in me lies, shall not be wanting to repair those Breaches that have been made, and to prevent the like *Invasions* for the Future.

I hope during this *King's* Life we are out of such Dangers, since the offering up of *Charters* can be no acceptable Sacrifice to him, because he came to the Crown upon *English Principles*, and Governing by such *Politicks*, is that alone which can make him Safe and Glorious. But you may remember that lately we had Two Kings, to whom nothing was so acceptable, as the submitting our Religion and Liberties to their Arbitrary Wills and Pleasure; and this Nation was then so unfortunate, as to have a Party in it, tho much the least, who were industrious to comply with those two Kings in their wicked Desires

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The first step made by that Party was in their *fulsome Addresses*, where they deliver'd up themselves and all they had, to be disposed of at the Kings Pleasure: Making *no other claim* to their Liberties and Civil Rights, but as *concessions from the Crown*; telling the King withal, That every one of his Commands was *Stamp'd with God's Authority*, and a great deal of such nauseous Stuff, much fitter to be offer'd to some *Eastern Monarch*, or the *French King*, than to a King of *England* governing by the Laws of the Realm.

Well had it been, if their Falshood and Flattery had gone no further; but contrary to their Oath, and the Trust reposed in them, they proceeded to the Surrendring of Charters; a thing so contrary to *Justice*, and *inconsistent* with the *Fundamentals* of the Government of *England*, that if such Surrenders can be justified, I don't see what can be *Disobedient* or *Unlawful*: yet such Proceedings became a *Test* of Loyalty, by which they thought to recommend themselves to the Kings Favour, whilst those who *dissented* in this point were accounted *disaffected* to the Government, and were loaded with all manner of Reproaches: But Gentlemen, till then it never was accounted *Liberality*, to be generous at the expence of others; nor the usual way of recommending a mans Fidelity, by *betraying* of a *Trust*; nor to bring a mans word into credit by *making Light* of an Oath.

These things I mention, not that I desire to keep up *divisions* amongst us, or to discourage any that are *sorry* for what they have done, and are willing to come into the *Interest* of this Government; for I wish from my Soul that we were all of a mind; but I mention these things, to testify my dislike of such *Proceedings*, and to shew how much I desire to prevent the like for the future. For I am sure no man can be *heartly* for this Government, who does not *abhor* such Proceedings as these were. And saying this, it puts me in mind of an Observation which I have made for some time, which is this, That generally those people who *refuse* to take the *Oaths* to this King and Queen, are such as were active in, or consenting to the *surrendring* of *Charters*, which shews they are men of extraordinary Consciences, who think it *unlawful* to Swear to this Government, and yet could think it not only *lawful*, but an act of *unshaken Loyalty*, to break their *Oaths*, and *betray* their *trust*.

If there be any such in this Corporation, I hope they are but few and will serve as *Examples*, not of *Imitation*, but *Admonition*, to put others in mind of their *Oaths* and *Duty*.

Gentlemen, Let us Preserve our *Liberties* and *Freedom*s; he is the *most Loyal Subject* that walks the nearest to the *Laws*; he that preserves his *Freedom* and *Birth-right*, is better able to *Serve* his *King* and *Countrey*, than he that has parted with them. Had not our *Forefathers* observed this Rule, we had had *no Liberties* to boast of; and surely we are bound to leave our *Posterities* in the same *Freedom*s which we received from our *Forefathers*. Therefore let us bless God and the King for our *Wonderful Deliverance*; and let not the *Aversion* of some to this Government, make us remiss in our *Duty*.

But Gentlemen, in saying this, I don't design to persuade any man to *Rigorous Courses*, or to stretch the Law beyond its *Fair* and *Natural Construction*, to serve a turn; I will never *practise* it my self, nor advise another to it; I utterly *dislike* such Proceedings in the Two late Reigns, and I am not now better reconciled to them. Let every man have *Right* according as the Merits of his Cause shall deserve: Let no mans *Complexion* or *Opinion* weigh at all. This *Impartial Method* will best support the Honour and Peace of the City: Such *fair Treatment* will convince many, of the *Reasonableness* and *Justice* of this Government; at least it will in a great measure *stop the mouths* of *Gain-sayers*, and cannot fail to meet with good effect. What I have more to tell you is, That I shall ever Pray for, and Endeavour the Prosperity of this City.

L O N D O N:

Printed for Richard Baldwin, near the Oxford-Arms
in Warwick-Lane, 1691,